

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 02269 311457Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
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R 311408Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5510
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, IS, GW
SUBJECT: TERRORISTS TRIAL: GERMAN PROTEST

REFS: (A) TEL AVIV 2222, (B) NAIROBI 4063

1. THE ANTICIPATED TRIAL OF TWO GERMANS AND THREE ARABS FOR A PLANNED ATTACK ON AN EL AL PLANE LAST YEAR CONTINUES TO DRAW FRONTPAGE ATTENTION IN THE ISRAELI PRESS. THE PRESS ARTICLES REPORT A PROTEST BY THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT REGARDING THE HANDLING OF THE MATTER AND ALSO DISCUSS THE VISIT TO ISRAEL OF THE PARENTS OF THE GERMANS AS WELL AS THE LEGALITY OF TRYING NON-ISRAELI CITIZENS IN ISRAEL FOR OFFENSES COMMITTED OUTSIDE THE BORDERS OF ISRAEL.

2. THE GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE ISSUED THE FOLLOWING FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT ON MARCH 30 REGARDING
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THE DETENTION OF THE TWO GERMAN NATIONALS: "ISRAEL HAS TAKEN NOTE OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC REGARDING THE ARREST OF THE TWO GERMAN NATIONALS ACCUSED OF PARTICIPATING IN THE ATTEMPTED ATTACK AGAINST THE EL AL PLANE BEYOND THE BORDERS OF ISRAEL. THIS WAS ANNOUNCED TONIGHT BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN. AS STATED

IN THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ON TUESDAY EVENING THE TWO ARE LEGALLY DETAINED IN ISRAEL AND WILL BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL SOON.

3. "ISRAEL POINTS OUT WITH REGRET THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS SO FAR FAILED TO FIND AN EFFICIENT WAY TO COMBAT THE PALESTINIAN TERROR ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR ACCOMPLICES. THIS TERROR IS DIRECTED AGAINST INNOCENT CIVILIANS AND THE FOILING OF THE ATTACK AGAINST THE EL AL PLANE SAVED THE LIVES OF MORE THAN 100 PASSENGERS, AMONG THEM INNOCENT WOMEN AND CHILDREN. TOGETHER WITH ENTEBBE, THE FRUSTRATION OF THIS ATTEMPT WAS ONE OF THE MOST IMPRESSIVE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE WAR AGAINST TERROR IN WHICH ISRAEL STANDS ALONE. HAD THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY JOINED IN THIS WAR AGAINST TERROR WITH THE SAME DETERMINATION WITH WHICH ISRAEL LEADS THIS WAR IT WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE TO HOPE FOR ADDITIONAL SUCCESSES IN THE ERADICATION OF THIS PLAGUE. ISRAEL FINDS HERSELF IN THE FRONT-LINE OF THIS WAR AND SHE WILL CONTINUE TO DEFEND HER AIR ROUTES AS IN THE PAST."

4. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE CASE BRIEFLY WITH AN OFFICER AT THE GERMAN EMBASSY WHO CONFIRMED THAT GERMAN AMBASSADOR FISCHER YESTERDAY DELIVERED AN "EMPHATIC" PROTEST TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY REGARDING CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE CASE. THE EMBASSY HAD BEEN INFORMED LAST FALL THAT TWO GERMAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NATIONALS WERE DETAINED BUT HAD BEEN GIVEN NO DETAILED INFORMATION REGARDING THE CHARGES FOR WHICH THEY WERE HELD NOR WHERE THEY WERE DETAINED. THE GERMAN EMBASSY OFFICER COMMENTED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT HAD INFORMED THE PARENTS OF THE GERMANS OF THEIR DETENTION SEVERAL MONTHS AGO BUT HAD NOT GIVEN THE SAME INFORMATION TO THE EMBASSY.

5. FOR NAIROBI: WE WOULD NOTE THAT THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT MADE HERE WAS THAT THE FIVE ARE TO BE TRIED; THERE HAS BEEN NO ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THEY ARE TO BE EXECUTED.
DUNNIGAN

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